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STATE LEGISLATURE, MADRAS

THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Saturday, 17th March 1956.

The House met in the Assembly Chamber, Government Estate, Mount Road, at nine of the clock, Mr. Speaker (THE HON. SRI N. GOPALA MENON) in the Chair.

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Water rates in certain revenue vattams in Pudukkottai division

* 46 SHORT NOTICE QUESTION.—SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the water rate in Kuratoor, Singamedu and Kilangedu Revenue vattams in Pudukkottai division of Tiruchirappalli district has been suddenly increased from Rs. 5 per acre to Rs. 15 per acre; and

(*b*) if so, the reasons for this sudden increase?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The sudden increase is based on the Government orders already issued in 1951. In 1951 the Government issued orders, directing that in the case of lands newly brought under irrigation for the first time in the Cauvery-Mettur Project area in Tanjore district the concessional rate of water-cess of Rs. 5 per acre for first crop with corresponding rates for the other irrigated crops be levied up to fasli 1364 and the peak rates of Rs. 10 per acre for first crop and Rs. 5 per acre for second crop be levied from fasli 1365 onwards. These orders were made applicable to the lands in the Cauvey-Mettur Project area in Tiruchirappalli district also. The ryots of the villages under the Olavayal channel have given a petition to the Collector of Tiruchirappalli requesting the continuance of the concessional rate for a further period of 20 years and the matter has been referred to the Board of Revenue for remarks. Pending issue of final orders in the matter instructions have been issued to the Collector to collect water-cess at the old rate.

SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN : Whereas for the lands newly brought under irrigation for the first time in the deltaic areas, the period of the concessional rate has been fifteen to twenty years, may I know why Pudukkottai alone is being discriminated against and the concessional rate allowed only for a lesser or shorter period?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : That fact also will be taken into consideration in passing the orders.

SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN : In view of the fact that Pudukkottai has been devastated by cyclone twice within a period of three years, will the Hon. Minister kindly consider this request of the villagers sympathetically?

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THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : I do not think there is any need for further reinforcing his arguments.

SRI K. VINAYAKAM : In case the Board of Revenue recommends that only the concessional rates should be collected from these ryots, will the Government, overriding that recommendation, be pleased to continue the present enhanced rates?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : I do not know why the hon. Members Messrs. Vinayakam and Balakrishnan are at loggerheads on this question. The order is that the old rate which is the concessional rate should be collected until the whole question is examined.

SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN : May I gratefully acknowledge from the Minister for Revenue his offer for favourably considering this question and may I take it that no new and convincing arguments are necessary from this side to drive home the truth.

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : I do not know why the hon. Member is not easily convinced.

SRI V. R. NAGARAJAN : I would like to know whether during question-time any hon. Member is entitled to put hypothetical questions merely relying on contingencies?

MR. SPEAKER : No hypothetical questions are allowed. Supplementary questions are allowed to elicit further facts.

Administration of Malabar in Malayalam

* 3435 *Q.*—SRI K. UPPI (on behalf of Sri Kunhi Mohamed Shafee) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have any proposal to extend the system of conducting official proceedings and correspondence in the regional language in the district of Malabar; and

(*b*) if so, when it will be given effect to?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : (*a*) No, Sir. The Government have no such proposal at present.

(*b*) The question does not arise.

SRI S. DAIVASIGAMONEY : May I know why it is not possible to conduct the proceedings in Malayalam?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : Because there is no such proposal.

SRI K. VINAYAKAM : Do the Government think that the introduction of regional language for administration will be possible and feasible now, when the reorganization of the State is imminent?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : The position may be considered after the reorganization.